

THE DENTAL H.O.M.E. (HEALTH OUTREACH MOBILE EXPERIENCE) COACH

Purpose

Dental care is the #1 unmet health care need in Ohio. The College of Dentistry's H.O.M.E. Coach is a mobile dental clinic that helps to bridge this gap by providing oral health care and education to underserved children in Columbus and surrounding communities. The Dental H.O.M.E. Coach is an outreach program that strives to meet the oral health needs of Ohioans in key underserved areas. The program focuses on three main goals:

1. To provide underserved children with oral health care that offers them a dental "home."
2. To expose dental students to an array of hands-on learning experiences that include pediatric dentistry treatments performed under the supervision of OSU faculty members.
3. To positively impact the problem of access to oral health care for Ohio's families.

The Dental H.O.M.E. Coach brings dentists and dental treatment to children at local schools during regular classroom hours. The Coach is staffed by faculty-supervised senior dental students and dental assistants who provide comprehensive treatment that includes diagnostic and preventive care, restorative dentistry, digital radiography, and minor surgery.

Impact

Many children and their families can't afford dental care. An Ohio Family Health survey found that about 36 percent of working families have no dental insurance. This program serves these families by accepting only public health insurance and no payments are required if patients are uninsured.

Dental care remains the single most common unmet health care need for nearly 157,400 children in Ohio, regardless of family income.

The Dental H.O.M.E. Coach makes an impact on local communities by providing services to approximately 2,000 children in Franklin County annually.

OHIO STATE COLLEGES/UNITS INVOLVED

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION

COMMUNITY PARTNERS INVOLVED

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS



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